

## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the supply of bearing elements (17.1, 17.2) in a hydrodynamic coupling, wherein the coupling includes (1)

~~[[ -]]~~ ~~with~~ a primary wheel (3) and a secondary wheel (4), ~~which the wheels being shaped and positioned to~~ together form a working area (5) capable of being filled with an operating fluid; an outlet from and an inlet into the working area; and with

an operating fluid system (2); comprising a direct circulation (9) connecting the ~~at least one~~ outlet (7) from the working area (5) to ~~an~~ the inlet (8) into the working area (5), an operating fluid source (10) and at least one filling line connectable between (12); ~~via which the inlet (8) is capable of being connected into the working area and~~ at least indirectly to the operating fluid source; (10); ~~and~~

at least one emptying line (13); ~~via which connectable between the outlet from the working area and (7) is capable of connection~~ at least indirectly to the operating fluid source, whereby (10); ~~in conjunction with which the filling line (12) and the emptying line (13) are connected via the direct circulation (9) to the inlet (8) and to the outlet, and (7), together with~~

a lubricant supply system (16); ~~which is capable of connection~~ connectable to the filling line (12);

the method comprising supplying ~~which is supplied with~~ lubricant during all operating modes of the coupling, comprising, in conjunction with which,

at least during ~~the~~ a filling mode, ~~the supply supplying of~~ the lubricant supply system (16) ~~is effected~~ via the filling line (12) that is capable of connection to the operating fluid source, (10); ~~characterized in that the supply of the lubricant supply system (16) is effected supplied solely from the direct circulation (9) in the a direct circulation (9) functional mode of the operating fluid between the outlet (7) and the inlet (8) of the working area.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method in accordance with~~ The method according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized in that, in the~~ a circulation cooling mode, ~~during in the event of~~ operating fluid flow from the direct circulation ~~and (9)~~ via the emptying line (13), ~~the supply of the~~ lubricant supply system (16) is ~~effected~~ supplied from the operating fluid source (10) via the filling line (12).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method in accordance with Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising monitoring the pressure level in the direct circulation (9) ~~is monitored and, in the event that if~~ a predefined limit value is not met, topping-up of operating fluid into the direct circulation (9) ~~is effected~~ by connecting the filling line (12).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic~~ A hydrodynamic coupling comprising: (1)

4.1 ~~with~~ a primary wheel (3) and a secondary wheel (4), which together are shaped to form a working area that is (5) capable of being filled with an operating fluid, the working area having an inlet and an outlet; respective bearing elements supporting the primary wheel and the secondary wheel for rotation;

4.2 ~~with~~ an operating fluid system (2), comprising

[[ - ]] a direct circulation (9) connecting ~~at least one~~ the outlet (7) from the working area (5) to ~~an~~ the inlet (8) into the working area; (5);

[[ - ]] an operating fluid source; (10)

[[ - ]] at least one filling line (12), ~~via which enables connecting the inlet (8) is capable of being connected;~~ at least indirectly[[ , ]] to the operating fluid source; (10); ~~and~~

at least one emptying line (13), ~~via which enables connecting the outlet (7) is capable of connection~~ at least indirectly to the operating fluid source (10);

4.3 the filling line (12) and the emptying line (13) are connected via the direct circulation (9) to the inlet (8) and the outlet (7);

4.4 the operating fluid system (2) comprises a first device operable means (18) to provide or interrupt ~~the~~ a flow of operating fluid in the filling line (12) from the operating fluid source (10) to the inlet (8) and a second device operable means (20) to provide or interrupt the flow of operating fluid in the emptying line (13) between the outlet (7) and the operating fluid source (10);

4.5 ~~with~~ a lubricant supply system (16) for ~~the supply of supplying~~ lubricant at least to the bearing elements (17.1, 17.2) ~~used to~~ which support the primary wheel (3) and the secondary wheel (4);

4.6 the ~~lubricants~~ lubricant supply system (16) is connected to the filling line (12) in the direction of flow ~~behind~~ after the operating fluid source (10) and ~~ahead of~~ before the first device, the supply system is operable to permit means (18) ~~to provide~~ or interrupt the flow of operating fluid in the filling line (12) from the operating fluid source (10) to the inlet (8);

characterized by the following features:

4.7 —the lubricant supply system (16) is capable of at least indirect connection; ~~at least indirectly~~; to the direct circulation (9);

4.8 —~~with means~~ and a third device operable for diverting the operating fluid from the direct circulation (9).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic~~ A hydrodynamic coupling (1) ~~in accordance with according to Claim 4, characterized by the following features further comprising:~~

5.1 ~~the main lubrication line (21) of the lubricant supply system~~ has a main lubrication line (16) is capable of connection directly or via a first connecting line (22, 50) via the filling line (12) to the source of operating fluid;

5.2 ~~the connection of the main lubrication line (21) or the first connecting line (22, 50) is effected~~ connected in the direction of flow between the operating fluid source (10) and the working area (5) ~~ahead of~~ before the first device means (18) for ~~providing~~ permitting or interrupting the operating fluid flow in the filling line (12) to the ~~latter~~ working area;

~~5.3 the third device which is operable~~ means for diverting operating fluid from the direct circulation (9) ~~comprise comprises~~ a second connecting line (23, 29, 32), which connects the direct circulation (9) to the lubricant supply system (16); and

~~5.4 the connection between the direct circulation is connected to (9) and the lubricant supply system (16) is effected~~ directly by the connection of the second connecting line (23, 29, 32) to the main lubricant supply line (21) or indirectly via the first connecting line (22).

6. ~~Hydrodynamic The hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with~~ according to Claim 5, wherein characterized in that the second connecting line (23, 29) is connected to the filling line (12) in the direction of flow ~~observed~~ from the operating fluid source (10) to the coupling (1) ~~behind~~ and after the first device means (18) for providing or interrupting the operating fluid flow in the filling line (12) to the coupling latter, and ~~in that~~

the connection to the direct circulation (9) is ~~effected~~ via this part of the filling line (12).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic The hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with~~ Claims 5 or 6, ~~characterized in that, in the main lubricant supply line (21) or the first connecting line (22, 50) in the direction of flow of the operating fluid from the operating fluid source to the main lubricant supply line (21), means (24, 31) are provided~~ according to claim 5, further comprising a fourth device operable for blocking the ~~direction of flow from the direct circulation (9) to the operating fluid source in the main lubricant supply line or the first connecting line in the direction of flow of the operating fluid from the operating fluid source to the main lubricant supply line; and (10), and in that the connection of~~

the second connecting line (23, 29) is connected to the main lubricant supply line (21) or to the first connecting line (22) ~~is effected behind~~ after the means (24) fourth device for blocking the ~~direction of flow from the direct circulation (9) to the operating fluid source (10).~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with one of the Claims 5 to 7, characterized in that, A hydrodynamic coupling according to claim 5, further comprising a~~ fifth device in the second connecting line (23, 29, 32) ahead of the connection to the main lubricant supply line (21) or to the first connecting line (22, 50), ~~means are provided and operable for blocking the direction of flow from the direct circulation (9) to the operating fluid source (10, 11).~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with~~ The hydrodynamic coupling according to Claim 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that~~ a pressure-limiting valve (30) ~~is arranged in the second connecting line (29) ahead of~~ before the connection to the main lubricant supply line (21) or to the first connecting line (50).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with one of Claims 7 to 9, characterized in that~~ The hydrodynamic coupling according to claim 7, wherein the fourth device comprises ~~means comprise~~ a nonreturn valve (24, 25) arranged in at least one of the first ~~and/or~~ and the second connecting line (22, 23).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with~~ The hydrodynamic coupling according to Claim 5, further comprising ~~characterized by the following features:~~

~~11.1~~ —the second connecting line (32) connects the direct circulation (9) to the lubricant supply system (16) without ~~the~~ use of parts of the filling line (12);

~~11.2~~ —~~with means (35)~~ a fifth device operable for the connection of ~~connecting~~ the two connecting lines (50, 32); of the connecting line for ~~the realization of a connection~~ connecting between the filling line (12) and the main lubricant supply line (21), and ~~of the fifth device is operable for connecting~~ the connecting line (32) between the direct circulation (9) and the lubricant supply line (21) to the main lubricant supply line (21).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The hydrodynamic~~ Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with according to Claim 11, characterized in that the means (35) comprise wherein the fifth device comprises a controllable valve ~~device (36).~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The hydrodynamic~~ Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with according to Claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ controllable valve ~~device exhibits~~ has at least two switching positions for selectively connecting ~~the connection of~~ the main lubricant supply line (21) to the filling line (12) or to the direct circulation (9), ~~as desired.~~

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic~~ The hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with ~~one of Claims 4 to 13, characterized in that~~ according to claim 4, further comprising a filter device (26) ~~is provided~~ in the main lubricant supply line (21), and ~~in that~~ a pressure switch (44) in a bypass (27) ~~is also assigned to this~~ in the main lubricant supply line.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The hydrodynamic~~ Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with ~~one of Claims 4 to 14, characterized in that~~ according to claim 4, further comprising a feed device (15) ~~is provided~~ in the filling line (12), and ~~in that~~ the connections of the connecting lines (32, 50, 22) are after the feed device ~~effected behind this.~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The hydrodynamic~~ Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with ~~one of Claims 4 to 15, characterized in that~~ means (46) according to claim 4, further comprising for recording the a recorder for a pressure level ~~are assigned to~~ in the direct circulation (9).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The hydrodynamic~~ Hydrodynamic coupling (1) in accordance with ~~one of Claims 4 to 16, characterized in that~~ according to claim 4, further comprising at least one diaphragm (42) ~~is arranged~~ in the main lubricant supply line (21).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Hydrodynamic~~ The hydrodynamic coupling (1) ~~in accordance with one of Claims 4 to 17, characterized in that means for recording the~~ according to claim 4, further comprising a temperature recorder in the direct circulation (9) ~~are assigned to the direct circulation~~ (9).